



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2015

No. 121

## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Active and intervening God, we trust in You. Nothing can stop Your plan and Your purposes will prevail. Bless our lawmakers. Guide them on the right path so that they will be instruments of Your peace. Use them as salt and light to strengthen our Nation and world. Forgive them when they forget that You are still on Your throne and that the hearts of humanity are in Your hands. Help them to remember that Your power is far above any conceivable command, authority or control.

Lord, as our lawmakers strive to contribute to building a better world, bless those who support them in their work. Help us all to trust You without wavering.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1881 AND H.J. RES. 61

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill and a joint resolution due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the measures by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1881) to prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 61) amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the measures on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the measures will be placed on the calendar.

### THE HIGHWAY BILL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, late nights, vigorous legislating, and sometimes unpredictable outcomes may make some reach for the aspirin, but these are the hallmarks of a functioning Congress.

The push-and-pull between different parties, different Members, and different Chambers is all part of the democratic rhythm. That is especially true when you are talking about a measure as complicated and consequential as a multiyear highway bill.

I am pleased to see Republicans and Democrats continuing to hold together to pass the Senate's bipartisan highway legislation. We are on the verge of scoring another important victory for the American people.

Once the Senate completes its work on the bill, the House of Representatives will begin its work on a multiyear measure as well. A multiyear bill is now our joint goal. That is important for our country. We know it represents the best way to provide State and local governments with

the kind of certainty they need to focus on longer term road and bridge projects.

Here is how Kentucky's main transportation advocacy group, Kentuckians for Better Transportation, put it: A longer term bill would "provide an opportunity to plan for and implement projects that are important to Kentucky's citizens and Kentucky's economy—and to every other state in the nation."

We will conference the legislation we pass with what the House passes and then send a unified bill to President Obama. In the meantime, we will work with our friends in the House to pass a measure that will give them the space they need to develop a multiyear highway bill. It is also a measure that would deliver some important relief to our veterans by covering unfunded requirements the administration failed to budget for. It would also extend a helping hand to heroes who need it.

I can't see a reason any Senator would vote against it. We will take up that bill once the House sends it to us. We will continue working in the interim to finish our own bipartisan, multiyear highway bill—a bill that is fiscally responsible and will not raise taxes by a penny.

### PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, the ongoing revelations about Planned Parenthood are more than just disturbing. They literally shock the conscience. A Democratic colleague called them "very troubling," "extremely troubling," and "highly troubling."

Next week, every Member of his party will have a chance to join us in reaffirming the Senate's commitment to genuine compassion and to women's health. We introduced legislation last night that would ensure taxpayer dollars for women's health are spent on women's health, not a scandal-plagued political lobbying giant.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S6089